IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for distributing content from a server to a plurality of receivers, wherein said content is packetized into one or more packets, comprising:

establishing a multicast distribution tree rooted at [[a sender]] the server; and

directing, by the server, transmission of each of the one or more packets along at least a portion of the multicast distribution tree, the at least a portion of the multicast distribution tree comprising one or more intermediate receivers through which the each of the one or more packets must travel to reach the plurality of receivers, wherein the server selects all of the one or more intermediate receivers in the at least a portion of the multicast distribution tree,

wherein the [[sender]] server defines a different set of the one or more intermediate receivers for each of said one or more packets,

and wherein at least some of the one or more packets are encoded with forward error correction coding.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of directing the transmission further comprises:

encoding the each of the one or more packets with the at least a portion of said multicast distribution, wherein the multicast distribution tree identifies at least one of the plurality of receivers to which the each of the one or more packets is to be delivered and a path along which the each of the one or more packets is to travel to the at least one of the plurality of receivers.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the multicast distribution tree is sender-defined defined by the server.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of directing transmission comprises:

sending one of said one or more packets to a first group of the one or more intermediate receivers;

creating at least one copy of the one of said one or more packets by at least one of said first group of the one or more intermediate receivers; and

forwarding at least one copy of the one of said one or more packets to at least one receiver in a second group of the one or more intermediate receivers within said multicast distribution tree.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of receivers that is not a final destination for said one or more packets copies and forwards said each of the one or more packets to a subsequent one of the plurality of receivers in accordance with said at least a portion of the multicast distribution tree.

6.   (Cancelled)

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein transmissions from the [[sender]] server to each of the plurality of receivers and between two of the plurality of receivers are individually accomplished using unicast distribution communication.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of establishing a multicast distribution tree comprises:

adjusting a structure of the multicast distribution tree to address a given metric, wherein said metric is at least one of: cost, delay, bandwidth, latency or reliability.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method for distributing content from a server to a plurality of receivers, wherein said content is packetized into at least one packet, comprising:

establishing a multicast distribution tree rooted at [[a sender]] the server; and

directing, by the server, transmission of the at least one packet along at least a portion of the multicast distribution tree, the at least a portion of the multicast distribution tree comprising one or more intermediate receivers through which the at least one

packet must travel to reach the plurality of receivers, wherein the server selects all of the one or more intermediate receivers,

wherein the plurality of receivers and the one or more intermediate receivers are defined by the [[sender]] server,

and wherein at least some of the one or more packets are encoded with forward error correction coding.

10.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 9, wherein the one or more intermediate receivers is different for each of the at least one packet.

11.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 9, wherein the step of directing transmission further comprises:

encoding the at least one packet with the at least a portion of said multicast distribution tree, wherein the multicast distribution tree identifies at least one of the plurality of receivers to which the at least one packet is to be delivered and paths along which the at least one packet is to travel to the at least one of the plurality of receivers.

12.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 9, wherein the step of directing transmission comprises:

sending the at least one packet to a first group of the one or more intermediate receivers;

creating at least one copy of the at least one packet by at least one of said first group of the one or more intermediate receivers; and

forwarding the at least one copy of the at least one packet to at least one receiver in a second group of the one or more intermediate receivers within said multicast distribution tree.

13.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein each of the plurality of receivers that is not a final destination for the at least one data packet copies and forwards the at least one packet to a subsequent one of the plurality of receivers in accordance with said at least a portion of the multicast distribution tree.

14.   (Cancelled)

15.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 wherein transmissions from the [[sender]] server to each of the plurality of receivers and between two of the plurality of receivers are individually accomplished using unicast distribution communication.

16.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of establishing a multicast distribution tree comprises:

adjusting a structure of the multicast distribution tree to address a given metric, , wherein said metric is at least one of: cost, delay, bandwidth, latency or reliability.

17. – 38.   (Cancelled)

39.   (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the multicast distribution tree is defined by the server.